

REMARKS

To place this application in better condition for a complete action on the merits, the specification has been suitably revised to correct informalities, to provide antecedent basis for the claim language, and to bring it in better conformance with U.S. practice. Proposed drawing revisions have been submitted in Figs. 4 and 5, and a new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the claims are directed has been substituted for the original abstract.

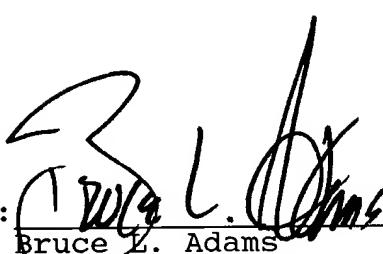
Original claims 1-6 have been amended only to improve the wording and to place them in better conformance with U.S. practice and not for patentability purposes. Accordingly, applicants submit that the original claims have not been narrowed within the meaning of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000). New claims 7-20 have been added to provide a fuller scope of coverage.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages i-viii are captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early and favorable action are respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
ADAMS & WILKS

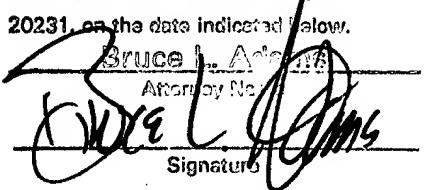
Attorneys for Applicants

By:   
Bruce L. Adams  
Reg. No. 25,386

50 Broadway - 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
is being deposited with the United States  
Postal Service as first-class mail in an  
envelope addressed to: Commissioner of  
Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C.  
20231, on the date indicated below.

  
Bruce L. Adams  
Attorney No. 25,386

Signature

NOVEMBER 6, 2001

Date